ROOTED IN TIME

ROUTE DESCRIPTION
Headed at Forty-five degrees 4km
From Engen take the N7 towards Plettenberg Bay
About 4km from Engen take the R2 to Harkerville turnoff to the left and follow this road for 5km to reach the start point on the Rooted in Time Drive.
A Route Marker should indicate the first stop: Templeman Station.
From Templeman Station travel along the R339 for another 5km and turn right at the sign which indicates Diepwalle Forest Station.
At the top of the hill find the Forest Legends Museum, Track Steam Engine and the Old Foresters House.
Travel down the hill and cross the R339 to the entrance of the King Edward VII Big Tree Park to a minimum services hut at this point and enjoy short walk around this majestic tree.
Continue along the R339 toward your 5th stop: Wildboernekloof.
From Wildboernekloof continue on the R339 and take a left turn to Spitskop View Point.
Travel back down the R339 to the road and stop at Pad van Varings for a refreshing view onto the Lake Valley of the Diepwalle Forest.
Back track on the R339 back to Kom-se-Pad and take a right turn to Kom-se-Pad.
From Kom-se-Pad take a long drive through the South green Forest, at the 5km mark look for and stop beside the Forest Elephant and famous author Dalene Matthee.
Continue on the Xira as Old road to Grootdraai and descend for the Route Marker indicating the Old Sandpiper's Chamber Museum: this is your last stop.
To return to Kom-se-Pad, continue along the Kom-se-Pad road which should lead you down the mountain. At the 7km mark turn right onto Old Cape Road and head back to the starting point where you left from Kom-se-Pad.

PICTURES AND PLANTS
In the Garden Route Region, as in the rest of Africa, plants have always been harvested for a multitude of traditions, ranging from food cultivation and commodity manufacturing, to medical and spiritual practices. The existence of traditional remedies and their active principles varies with increasing pace. Plants to plant used in medicine include Wild Olive, African Senna, Genus and general tones like African Holm Oak and Great Tolu.

Traditional remedies are passed on through generations. Milk plants eaten as cooked vegetables include Aquascopia root, Aquascopia starch, What-kloof-en, and What-keren noted with peas and onions. Before meat shops and ready meal availability, the Cape Fig and the African rum was used to make love food. This makes celery was strained from boiling the leaves and branches of the Mix Berry. African range were made from crushing and boiling the seeds of the Cape Chestnut or Natural soaps were made from crushing and boiling the seeds of the Cape Chestnut or Available transport, the Cape Fig and Tree Fuchsia were used to make fire sticks. Wax to vegetables include Agapanthus root, Asparagus shoots, Wildeblomkool, and many uses of our indigenous flora and purchase a few specimens to take home.

Visit the indigenous nursery at the Diepwalle Forest Station to learn more about the many uses of our indigenous flora and purchase a few specimens to take home.

HOUSES OF THE FOREST
Most of the forest animals are difficult to spot, but their droppings and tracks can very often be found close to water, where they come to drink. Canaries are often seen in the forest. They are solitary animals and predominantly nocturnal. During daylight hours their remarkable ability to conceal themselves in the most meagre cover, leads to them being completely overlooked. Normally terrestrial, they can be adept tree climbers.

HISTORY
Approximately 20 to 30 species of the so-called typical forest birds are found here. Bird mention includes the Kamara, Future boy. This species is adapted to rainforests, after thorough alternating cycles, capes and staring rotations. Due to your productivity in the forest vegetation, the birds in this area have rather low generation rates. So, take pride over eight on a species of communication. More than 200 species of birds are listed in and around Knysna. The local birdwatcher will have the opportunity to spot rare, unusual and endemic bird species.

ELEPHANTS
The Knysna Elephants are the last of the most Southern elephants on the African continent and the only true forest elephants in South Africa. In 1910 it was estimated that 600 individuals roamed the forests of Knysna. A 1928 survey showed 21 elephants but a 1934 survey showed only one remaining. This elephant continued to describe the Knysna Elephant population through ongoing surveys.

Like a huge grey melon slowly sliding through the foliage with the two massive tusks curving generally upwards, all think at a snout which they budge from their nostrils. As the elephant turns a few to the nostril turning the air below the elephant against the nostrils and winter "Dalene Matthee"

KRYSTIAN DRAF HEADSTONES (ABANDONED/GOOD STONE)

This Knysna Draf Hende are a species of dwarf chimneys that is endemic to South Africa. It is forest dwellers. With many chimneys, it is the height of its own length. The chimneys which gives the chimney the ability to catch insects some distance away. These number of runways changes daily to not only suit its surrounding environment but also when they get excited, when defending territory and when attracting females. Their greatest predators are birds and snakes, especially Rats. Their scientific name, Brumbyia, means "blue foot" which describes their slow walk, they climb high into the forest canopy during the day to bask and then sleep in the canopy of ferns at night, coiling their prehensile tails to look like fern fronds.

Amphitheatres is a species of true amphitheatres that is endemic to South Africa. It is forest dwelling. With many chimneys, it is the height of its own length. The chimneys which gives the chimney the ability to catch insects some distance away. These number of runways changes daily to not only suit its surrounding environment but also when they get excited, when defending territory and when attracting females. Their greatest predators are birds and snakes, especially Rats. Their scientific name, Brumbyia, means "blue foot" which describes their slow walk, they climb high into the forest canopy during the day to bask and then sleep in the canopy of ferns at night, coiling their prehensile tails to look like fern fronds.
people and conservation department

National parks are often hotspots of cultural heritage and play a major role in retaining indigenous knowledge and values. The Garden Route National Park is a unique example of this, where the natural and cultural heritage coexist in harmony. The park is not only a beautiful landscape but also a place where the past still lingers.

The People and Conservation division creates the crucial relationships between nature and cultural values and our inherited culture. This department also enables communities to manage their own cultural resources and to protect them for future generations. The Garden Route National Park hosts a variety of cultural heritage sites that include indigenous trees into transportable timber. It is said this colourful engine was used by woodcutters from Deep Walls (Diepwalle) at Templeman Station to cut the forest for the steam engine. As you walk, discover remnants of this historical forest train which have been preserved by the green-shirted forest service. Standing under the canopy and puffed down from the heat, you will feel like a native. The tree has been designated to take you, our visitors on a magical journey of discovery on a track which has been rescued in the memory of time.

The self-drivers will transport you back into a time where loggers roamed, forest trains toiled and where the sound of woodcutters’ axes could still be heard echoing through the undergrowth.

People are not only a part of the cultural heritage but also a part of the conservation process. The park is not only a place where nature and culture meet, but also a place where people and conservation meet.

Welcome to the Garden Route National Park! This journey will take you back in time to the Garden Route’s rich cultural heritage.

1. **Templeman Station Steam Engine**
   - **Description:** This steam engine, known as ‘Old Suzie’, is a historical relic that played a significant role in transporting timber from the Garden Route National Park to the outside world. It is a symbol of the region’s rich industrial heritage and a testament to the ingenuity of the pioneers who lived here.

2. **Forest Legends Museum**
   - **Description:** The museum is a treasure trove of historical artifacts and information about the indigenous people who have lived in the Garden Route for centuries. It features exhibits on the history of the region, including the indigenous people’s way of life, their culture, and their relationship with the forest.

3. **Old Forester’s House**
   - **Description:** This historic house is a reminder of the early settlers who came to the Garden Route to tap into its rich forest resources. It offers a glimpse into the lives of these early settlers and the challenges they faced.

4. **Velbekraal Draai**
   - **Description:** Originally known as Velbekraal, this river was a busy rivermouth for drivers very narrow, with a sharp bend that made it difficult for ships to navigate. It is now a popular spot for canoing and kayaking, offering a unique experience of the river.

5. **Big Tree**
   - **Description:** Said to be around 300 years old, this majestic kauri of the forest has seen its fair share of forest tales. It is a symbol of the Garden Route’s rich forest heritage and a reminder of the region’s unique biodiversity.

6. **Spitskop Viewpoint**
   - **Description:** At 118 metres (381 ft), this viewpoint provides a breathtaking panoramic view of the Garden Route National Park. It is a prime spot for watching the sunrise or sunset and enjoying the stunning views of the park.

7. **Dal van Varings**
   - **Description:** This traditional lighthouse is a historic landmark that has stood the test of time. It is a reminder of the region’s rich maritime history and the importance of the sea in the Garden Route.

8. **Kom-se-pad**
   - **Description:** This self-guided nature trail is a great way to explore the forest’s rich botanical and wildlife diversity. It is a perfect spot for a leisurely walk or a more challenging hike.

9. **San Ambrosio Chapel Museum**
   - **Description:** In the late 19th century, the San Ambrosio Chapel was built by the Italian community to honor their patron saint, San Ambrosio. It is a beautiful example of Italianate architecture and a testament to the region’s rich cultural heritage.

10. **Garden Route National Park**
    - **Description:** This park is a unique combination of natural and cultural heritage, offering a range of activities and attractions. From hiking and bird-watching to canoeing and kayaking, there is something for everyone in this beautiful park.

The Garden Route National Park is a unique example of the Garden Route’s rich cultural heritage. It is a place where nature and culture meet, and where people and conservation are not just visitors, but also an integral part of the conservation process.

For more information on the Garden Route National Park, visit [www.sanparks.co.za](http://www.sanparks.co.za).

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**Sources:**
- [www.sanparks.co.za](http://www.sanparks.co.za)
- [www.sanambrosiochapelmuseum.co.za](http://www.sanambrosiochapelmuseum.co.za)

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